

and rural education. Providing the resources low-income families need to increase their academic success is one of my highest priorities, and this legislation is a first step in the right direction.

Furthermore, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and other minority serving institutions are set to receive an additional \$40 million in funding. HBCUs have created and fostered a generation of African-American professionals, and still play a vital role in educating our youth. My district is home to some of the most prominent HBCUs in the Country, and as a Vice Chair of the Bipartisan Congressional HBCU Caucus, securing adequate funding for these institutions is critically important to me.

I am also pleased that this bill provides funding through the Department of the Interior that will be used to preserve historic civil sites. The struggle for civil and voting rights is an integral part of American history. Our district is known as the civil rights district, and we have the potential to benefit from this competitive grant process. I fought to secure two amendments that made this funding possible in order to preserve important civil rights sites for future generations.

The bill includes many increases in programs that are critical to improving access to quality health care and innovative medical research. I am particularly pleased to see a much needed increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). These investments in research are essential to providing long-term stability for our research communities in Birmingham and across the state. The package recognizes that HIV and Hepatitis should be a priority by reinvesting in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As the mental health crisis becomes more urgent, the deal's increased funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency (SAMHSA) is a welcome sign of progress for the mental health community.

There is an urgent need to address racial health disparities in Alabama's 7th Congressional District, and I am pleased this bill recognizes that need. By funding Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH), Congress has made an investment to help eliminate health disparities across a range of diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, and obesity.

This is not a perfect bill, but I am proud that both sides of the aisle were able to work out a compromise that benefits our nation, and helps us continue to grow.

RECOGNIZING STAN SOLOWAY ON HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT/CEO OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COUNCIL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my friend, Mr. Stan Soloway, as he prepares to step down from his 15 year tenure as president and CEO of the Professional Services Council (PSC.)

PSC was founded in 1972 by a group of industry leaders who recognized the emergence and growing vitality of the professional services sector. Prior to 1972, this sector was virtually unaccounted for as a part of the U.S. economy even though it was thriving and growing at twice the rate of the rest of the economy. PSC organized the various businesses and service providers so that they could become more effective in supporting the growth of the businesses while delivering better and more cost-effective services to the federal government.

In January, 2001, Stan assumed the presidency of PSC. His knowledge and expertise in public policy, public affairs, and acquisition reform have been instrumental in shaping PSC into an essential partner with the federal government. Following the merger of PSC and the Contract Services Association of America, PSC became a single, unified voice representing the range and diversity of the government services sector. PSC currently has nearly 400 member companies that provide federal agencies with services in a multitude of areas including information technology, engineering, logistics, facilities management, operations and maintenance, consulting, international development, scientific, social, environmental services, and others. Together, the trade association's members employ hundreds of thousands of Americans in all 50 states.

Before joining PSC, Stan served as the deputy undersecretary of Defense, and concurrently as the director of Secretary of Defense William Cohen's Defense Reform Initiative. In recognition of his expertise and leadership, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medals for Outstanding and Distinguished Public Service. In addition, Stan was confirmed by the United States Senate in 2007 to serve a 5 year term on the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal agency that oversees national service programs including Americorps and VISTA. Stan is a principal of the Partnership for Public Service, and a member of the Executive Advisory Board of the National Contract Management Association, where he is also a fellow.

A nationally recognized expert, Stan writes regular columns for Washington Technology magazine and the Washington Business Journal. In addition, he has been a contributing author for books published by Harvard Law School, the University of Pennsylvania, Cambridge University, and the IMB Center for the Business of Government. Stan was also a producer of the critically acclaimed PBS series "Great Confrontations at the Oxford Union."

Stan has received numerous awards and accolades in recognition of his talents and accomplishments. These honors include the 2013 Herbert Roback Award, being named the 2013 Industry Executive of the Year by Government Computer News and 1105 Media. In addition, the Washington Business Journal named Stan to its Power 100 as one of the most influential business leaders in Washington in 2012 and 2013, and he was named one of the most influential leaders in U.S. defense by Defense News and Gannett Media. He is also a two time winner of the Federal 100 award.

Northern Virginia is a vibrant region where so many are genuinely experts in technology, government services, and public policy. Among this group of esteemed professionals,

Stan Soloway stands out. He has been a pioneering force in changing and modernizing the way that the federal government does business, and we have all benefited from his exceptional abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Stan on his remarkable tenure as president and CEO of PSC. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life and thank him for his tireless efforts on behalf of the federal government and the professional services industry.

HONORING FORT OSAGE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2015

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Fort Osage High School football team. This is a group of very special young men who have exemplified the finest qualities of teamwork, devotion and sportsmanship by taking an active part in the classroom and on the field. These Indians relentlessly pursued their goal and were rewarded with their first state football title in school history.

The Fort Osage Indians defeated Chaminade 63-28 in the Missouri Class 5 Championship. Senior Skylar Thompson managed to score an astounding seven times. This capped an outstanding season for Thompson, who was awarded the Thomas A. Simone Award as the best high school football player in the Kansas City area. The work and effort these young men have persevered through over the years has not only earned them numerous honors on and off the field, but also the respect of their families, classmates, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Fort Osage High School football team for their accomplishments on the field and for their efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Missouri Class Five state champions.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this tax bill, which is unpaid for and adds more than \$600 billion to the deficit, primarily to benefit corporations at the expense of working families. In the future, to address the revenue loss in this bill will require reduced funding for education, health care, and job training programs essential to improving the lives of hardworking Americans. This is completely unacceptable.

While there are some positive elements in this bill, including making the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit permanent, the bill does not allow the Child Tax Credit to

keep pace with inflation, which means the tax credit will be worth less and less as the years go by.

Mr. Speaker, the tax provisions in this bill don't do enough to help families make ends meet, and will force us to underfund programs that Americans need to educate their children, keep their families healthy, and provide for their families' future and well-being. I will vote against this bill because it is a bad deal for American families.

**MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2016**

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the underlying bill, H.R. 2029, the "Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2014."

I want to thank Chairman ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY for their constructive work in fashioning this bipartisan and bicameral legislation to fund the government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016.

The bill before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

As with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I do not.

The bill provides a total of \$1.067 trillion for the operation of the federal government, a substantial and necessary increase of \$80 billion in sequestration relief.

The bill contains all 12 regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2016, with no area of the government functioning under a Continuing Resolution, thus allowing every program to be considered on its own merits and prioritized, rather than be subject to arbitrary across the board cuts.

Mr. Speaker, let me say at the outset that I am very pleased that Section 208 of the Omnibus (Division N) incorporates the Jackson Lee Amendment to Cybersecurity Act of 2015, which creates a voluntary cybersecurity information sharing process that will encourage public and private sector entities to share cyber threat information, without legal barriers and the threat of unfounded litigation—while protecting private information.

The Jackson Lee Amendment incorporated in the Cybersecurity Act and included in the Omnibus also includes provisions to improve federal network and information system security, provide assessments on the federal cybersecurity workforce, and provide reporting and strategies on cybersecurity industry-related and criminal-related matters.

I also strongly support the James Zadroga 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund Reauthorization contained in Title IV of Division O, which reauthorizes the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund for an additional five years, provides an additional \$4.6 billion to fully fund the VCF; and makes technical adjustments to VCF pay-

ment schedules to ensure the provided funding is sufficient to pay all claims.

In addition, Title IV creates a fund, modeled along the lines of the "Victim of the Terror Fund" I proposed in H. Res. 528, to compensate U.S. victims of terrorism who either hold a final judgment issued against a state sponsor of terrorism under the terrorism exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act, or were taken hostage (or are a spouse or child of someone who was taken hostage) from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran in 1979.

This program is funded with an initial allocation of \$1.025 billion and will be augmented in future years through criminal and civil penalties levied against state sponsors of terrorism and their co-conspirators.

Mr. Speaker, the Omnibus provides increases in funding for several programs that I have strongly supported and fought for throughout my tenure in Congress.

Let me list just a few of the more important ones.

AGRICULTURE AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$6.350 billion for Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), an amount sufficient to meet expected need in Fiscal Year 2016.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

\$19.3 billion for NASA, which is \$1.27 billion more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$347 million for Byrne-JAG grants, which is \$14.7 million above the 2015 enacted level and \$2 million more than the House bill.

\$212 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program. Within this funding, \$187 million is for the hiring of law enforcement, which is \$7 million above the FY 2015 level and \$187 million above the House bill which eliminated this funding.

\$480 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, which is \$50 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$270.2 million for Juvenile Justice, which is \$18.7 million more than the FY 2015 level and \$83.7 million above the House bill.

\$385 million for the Legal Services Corporation, which is \$10 million more than FY 2015 level and \$85 million above the House bill.

\$7.46 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), which is \$119.3 million more than FY 2015 and \$69.3 million above the House bill.

\$2.57 billion overall for total State and Local Law Enforcement Activities, which is \$246.2 million above the FY 2015 level and \$405.7 million more than the House bill; and

\$1.37 billion for the Census Bureau, which is \$378.3 million more than the House bill, including funding to help ensure an efficient 2020 Census utilizing innovative and cost-effective enumeration practices.

The bill rejects House proposals to prohibit the Department of Justice from using funds to challenge state immigration laws or awarding grants to "sanctuary" cities; or to defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy in the pending court case.

DEFENSE

\$288.3 million for sexual assault prevention and response programs, \$5 million more than the House bill and \$25 million more than the request.

\$125 million for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Psychological Health research.

\$282 million for cancer research, roughly the same as the House bill, \$407 million more

than the request, and \$1.5 million more than FY2015.

1.3% pay raise for military personnel as proposed in the budget request and included in the FY2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

\$26.7 million for the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, the same as the House bill, \$20 million more than requested.

\$25 million for STARBASE, a STEM education program for fifth graders, the same as the House bill, \$25 million more than the request, and the same as FY2015.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED
AGENCIES**

\$2.1 billion for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, which is \$404 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$6.0 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, which is \$350 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$1.3 billion for water resources projects within the Department of Interior, which is \$135 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

\$206 million for activities to modernize the electricity grid, which is \$19 million more than the House bill and \$59 million than the FY2015 enacted level.

\$6.2 billion for environmental cleanup activities, which is \$309 million more than the House bill and \$337 million more than the FY2015 enacted level.

The Omnibus eliminates the majority of riders proposed in the House bill, including those related to Waters of the United States, guns on Corps lands, Clean Water Act agriculture exemptions and ceiling fan standards.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

\$871 million for the Small Business Administration (SBA), which is \$16.6 million less than the 2015 enacted level (as a result of reduced loan subsidy costs) and \$18.5 million higher than the House-passed level.

\$729.8 million for the District of Columbia, which is \$50.3 million more than the 2015 enacted level and \$51.8 million more than the House-passed level.

\$6.8 billion for the Judiciary, which is \$80 million more than the 2015 enacted level.

The Omnibus eliminates the majority of riders proposed in the House including those prohibiting funds: to subsidize abortion services in connection with a multi-state plan offered under the Affordable Care Act exchanges negotiated by OPM; to implement the Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual mandate and prohibiting HHS transfers to IRS for ACA implementation; implement the net neutrality order until the current court cases are resolved; and to travel to Cuba for educational exchanges not involving academic study pursuant to a degree program.

HOMELAND SECURITY

\$13.03 billion for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which is \$451 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and \$59 million less than the House level.

\$4.93 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, which is \$225.8 million less than the 2013 enacted level.

\$7.44 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, which is \$211.3 million more than the FY2015 enacted level and \$207.5 million more than the House level.

\$923.8 million for Cybersecurity and Communications, an increase of \$27.5 million above the 2013 enacted level.